Oil Exploraton by Foreign Investors

3566. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many foreign investors have been attracted for oil exploration so far in the country;

(b) whether the incentives are to be made available only after they strike oil;

(c) what other incentives are going to be offered to them; and

(d) how the ONGC is likely to be affected by the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) The number of foreign companies who have submitted bids for oil exploration in the country under various bidding rounds are given below:—

Round	Number of foreign companies who submmitted their bids
First	6
Second	NIL
Third	8
Fourth	21
Fifth	5
Sixth	9
Seventh	5
Eight	6
Joint Venture Exploration Programme	10

(b) to (d) Only some of the companies that bid for contracts have been awarded the contacts. The incentives and obligations of the companies are governed by the tripartite Production Sharing Contracts signed with them by ONGOOIL and the Government.

Under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), ONGC and OIL will have a level playing field with private companies. They will be paid international prices of oil for discoveries made in blocks awarded under the NELP as also get other fiscal and contract terms offered to private investors. At the same time, they will have to compete for obtaining Petroleum Exploration Licenses (PEL) on competitive basis instead of the existing system of granting them PELs on nomination basis.

Implement Modified Tatkal Scheme

3567. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to allot more and more LPG agencies throughout the country with the introduction of modifed Tatkal scheme of LPG connection; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to allot more LPG distributorships exclusively for or on account of Tatkal scheme. However, based on the Oil Industry viability norms, 858 LPG distributorships have been proposed by the Industry in the LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98 all over the country. These distributorships will also take care of the LPG demand arising from Tatkal scheme.

Demand for Fixing Regular Royalty on Crude Oil

3568. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of royalty on crude oil had been fixed on *ad hoc* basis from time to time in the past;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the crude oil producing States have represented, to the Union Government to fix a regular rate of royal'y, on the basis of other minerals in the country;

(c) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) by when the rates of royalty were revised last?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (d)' The rate of royalty on crude oil was fixed at Rs. 481/- per metric tonne for the period 1.4.1990 to 31.3.1993 in February, 1993. For the period 1.4.1993 to 31.3.1996, an 'on account' payment @ Rs. 528/- per metric tonne towards royalty on crude oil was made subject to adjustment on notification of the final rate of royalty and finalisation of crude price in due course. This 'on account' rate of royalty has. been revised to Rs. *518/-* per metric tonne with effect from 1.4.1996.

Governments of Assam and Gujarat have been requesting the Central Government to fix the final rate of royalty on crude oil for the block period 1993—96. For this three year period, the actual weighted cost of production will be worked out on the basis of the figures audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General and the final rate of royalty notified and necessary adjustments made against the 'on account' payments already

तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस का उत्पादन और मांग

3569. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जुदेवः** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

क्या यह सच है कि देश तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस के उत्पादन में अत्मनिर्भर नहीं है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो देश में तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस की मांग और खपत सहित इनके वार्षिक उत्पादन का व्यौरा क्या है,

(ग) क्या चालू वर्ष के दौरान इनकी मांग और आपर्ति के बीच अंदर बहने की संभावना है,

(घ) यदि हां, तो यह अंतर कितना बढने की संभावना है, औऱ

(ड.) देश में प्राकृतिक गैस के उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने हेतु क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री टी. आर. बालु)ः (क) जी, हां। तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस का स्वदेशी उत्पादन घरेलू मांग को पूरा करने के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं है।

(ख) 1996-97 के दौरान और तेल गैस का उत्पादन और इनकी खपत निम्रानुसार थी,

1. कच्चे तेल का उत्पादन 32.886 एम एम टी.

2. कच्चे तेल की मांग और खपत 62.814 एम एम टी (रिफाइनरी क्रूड थपुट)

3. 31.3.92 तक प्राकृतिक गैस की पंजीक्रत मांग 260 एम एम सी एम डी

4. प्राकृतिक गैस का उत्पादन 62 एम एम एस सी एम डी.

4. प्राकृतिक गैस की खपत अनंतिम 58 एम एम एस सी एम डी

(ग) और (घ) मांग और आपुर्ति के बीच अंतराल 1997-98 के दौरान बढने की संभावना नहीं है।

(ड.) प्राकृतिक गैस के उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने के लिए किए गए विभिन्न उपाय निम्रांकित है.

नई योजनाओं का कार्यान्यवान और प्राकृतिक गैस के उत्पादन की वर्तमान की प्रतिभागिता में निजी/संयुक्त विकास।

हाइड्रोकार्वनों के अन्वेषण में निजी/संयुक्त उदयम कंपनियों की प्रतिभागिता को बढावा देना।

भुकंपियों सर्वेक्षणों और सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में विकास के माध्यम से हाइड्रोकार्बन और भंडारों के अन्वेषण में वृद्धि करना।

Deep Water Exploration by ONGC

3570. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC plans to invest for deep-water exploration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas identified for the purpose; and

(d) by when the exploration is likely to be begin?